

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 to correct an informality. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to claim 1 for an informality. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 to clarify the spacing between the words in the phrase "onto fed printing." Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,980,018 (Taylor). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In particular, Taylor fails to disclose "a wiping mechanism being mounted on the mounting base and including a wiper base supported on the mounting base movably toward the nozzle surface and a wiper attached to the wiper base," or "the wiper base moves toward the nozzle surface to bring the wiper into contact with the nozzle surface when the mounting base is at the maintenance position," as recited in claims 1 and 12.

The Office Action alleges that the wiper mount 190 of Taylor is equivalent to the claimed wiper base and that column 14, lines 39-47, of Taylor disclose the above features. However, column 14, lines 39-47, simply discloses that residual ink may be removed from the tips of the wipers 150, 152 and mud flaps 180, 182 by a wiper scraper bar 185 when the pallet 120 is moved toward the scraper bar 185. That portion of Taylor is silent with respect to the wiper base (190) moving toward a nozzle surface.

Instead, as clearly shown in Fig. 2 of Taylor, explaining the general operation of the service station 60, only the cap 69, which is mounted to the spring-biased sled 85, is movable toward the nozzle surface (printheads 54, 56) when in the maintenance position (C10/L14-22). Although the wiper may move in direction 66 to arrive at a maintenance position

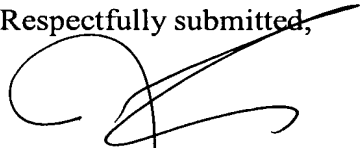
(C10/L1-4), the wiper 68 is not mounted to the spring-biased sled 85, and thus the wiper 68 does not move toward the nozzle surface when in the maintenance position.

Because Taylor fails to disclose "a wiping mechanism being mounted on the mounting base and including a wiper base supported on the mounting base movably toward the nozzle surface and a wiper attached to the wiper base," or "the wiper base moves toward the nozzle surface to bring the wiper into contact with the nozzle surface when the mounting base is at the maintenance position," claims 1 and 12 are patentable over Taylor. Further, claims 2-11, 13, and 14 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 12 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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